
From: Douglas Reynolds [mailto:Douglas.Reynolds@jdsu.com]

Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 1:58 PM

To: MLPAComments

Subject: MLPA zones, Salt Point vs. Sea Ranch

This is in reference to the study for the pending MLPA closure on the North Sonoma County coast. My understanding is that the zone being considered to be closed to spear fishing and abalone diving has been narrowed down to either the strip of coast from Gerstle Cove in Salt Point to Black Point in Sea Ranch, or to the area from Black Point to Gualala.

I have been a resident of Sonoma County for more than thirty years. In that time I've come to appreciate the cold water of our coastline for its natural underwater beauty and its abundant fish and abalone. Over the years, both these areas have been favorite skin diving destinations for me, but if I were forced to give up one of them to the MLPA, it would be area from Black Point to Gualala.

To get to the water between Black Point and Gualala, one has to be a Sea Ranch landowner, know one of them, or pay \$5.00 to park at one of the too-few beach access lots. Once there, the conditions must be fairly calm to enter the water, or you'll wind up getting hurt by the waves pounding against the exposed rocky shore.

On the other hand, Salt Point's area north of Gerstle Cove is available to all the public, with free parking at hundreds of turnouts along Highway 1. And, most importantly, there are places along this stretch of coastline that are protected from the prominent North swell, making the entries and exits necessary to shore diving much safer for me and my fellow taxpayers than the exposed coast further north at Sea Ranch.

Therefore, it is my hope that the area between Gerstle Cove in Salt Point and Black Point will remain open to diving for fish and abalone.

-Doug Reynolds, Healdsburg, CA